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TELEGRAM

PAGE #1 BEIJIN 17156 230941Z
ACTION EAP-85

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1150 EAP6471

ACTION OFFICE CH-85
INFO TC-81 P-81 RA-81 EAP-85 /813 A2 FL

INFO LOG-88 AOS-88 INR-87 SS-88 CIAE-88 EB-89 B-81
NSCE-88 NSAE-88 SSO-88 NA-89 L-81 TRSE-88 PM-10
AIT-82 PA-81 DNB-81 INRE-88 OCS-86 CA-82 USIE-88
SP-82 SNP-81 PRS-81 DS-88 P-82 T-81 /85D W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1694

SECDEF WASHDC
AMCOMSEN SHANGHAI
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
AMCONSUL SHENYANG
AMCONSUL CHENGDU
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AIT TAIPEI

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NSC FOR DOUG PAAL

GINCPAC FOR FPA FINNEY

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, CA, US
SUBJECT: CHINESE REACTION TO LATEST U.S. MOVES: MUTED,
SO FAR

REF: BEIJING 17057

1. OFFICIAL CHINESE REACTION TO U.S. MOVES TO SUSPEND HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS AND TO SEEK TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION LENDING TO CHINA HAS BEEN RELATIVELY MUTED, SO FAR. VIRTUALLY ALL DIRECT COMMENT ON THE U.S. MOVES HAS BEEN LIMITED TO REPEATING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS SPOKESPERSON'S STATEMENTS JUNE 22 THAT CHINA OPPOSES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S INTERFERENCE IN CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND WILL NOT YIELD TO OUTSIDE PRESSURE (REFTEL).

2. THE JUNE 23 PEOPLE'S DAILY FEATURED TWO ARTICLES ON THE U.S. MOVES--THE FIRST A REPORT FROM WASHINGTON THAT DETAILED THE U.S. MOVES, AND NOTED EARLIER U.S. STEPS TO SUSPEND MILITARY SALES; THE SECOND A REPORT ON THE MFA PRESS BRIEFING. SIMILAR TREATMENT HAS BEEN ACCORDED IN OTHER MAJOR DAILIES. CHINESE TV AND RADIO HAVE ALSO, UP TO NOW/ LIMITED THEIR STATEMENTS TO THE FORMULATION GIVEN BY THE MFA SPOKESPERSON. THE CHINESE DO SEEM TO BE SINGLING OUT U.S. MOVES -- THEY HAVE NOT GIVEN AS MUCH COVERAGE TO SIMILAR EUROPEAN MOVES TODAY WHICH WERE, HOWEVER, DONE IN LOWER PROFILE. THE CHINESE DID IN THEIR EARLY MORNING BROADCAST TODAY JUXTAPOSE THE U.S. MEASURES WITH A FAVORABLE STATEMENT MADE ON STABILITY IN CHINA BY A MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL.

3. AWARE OF BILATERAL TENSIONS, BUT UNCLEAR OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF USC MEASURES, A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND TRADE (MOFE) RELATED COMPANY CALLED THE EMBASSY JUNE 22 TO ASK WHETHER THERE WERE ANY U.S. SANCTIONS WHICH WOULD INTERFERE WITH A CONTEMPLATED BUSINESS DEAL WITH A U.S. COMPANY. THIS WAS OUR ONLY SUCH QUERY.

United States Department of State
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
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